

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: Dunwoody

Title: TUBE JOINT

REQUEST FOR STATUS OF APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A request for continued examination (RCE) under 35 U.S.C. 132(b) was filed on May 3, 2005.

37 CFR 1.702(a)(2) indicates that the USPTO should respond to any reply filed under 35 U.S.C. 132 within four months. (Filing of an RCE is considered "a reply under 35 U.S.C. 132.") Thus, the USPTO response to the RCE should have been sent on or before September 3, 2005.

As of the present date, no USPTO response to the request for continued examination has been mailed from the USPTO.* In other words, the USPTO response is more than 15 months overdue.

* The PAIR records indicate an "allowance counted" status for the present application; however, a notice of allowance was not mailed to the applicant. The applicant has already filed a petition to the director addressing this issue on July 3, 2006, but after five months, this petition has also gone unanswered.

The Patent Office is therefore respectfully requested to indicate, as soon as possible, when a response to the RCE will be mailed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Guss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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